Dear Parents,

Welcome back! Wow, your child’s last year of Primary School! Can you believe it? We hope that everyone had an enjoyable and restful break with family and friends. We extend a special welcome to our new families and Year Six students to St. Simon’s. We hope you’re ready for what promises to be a busy, exciting and a rewarding year for your children.

It has been a smooth start to Term One and all students have settled in well. We thank you for your part in preparing your children. The five Year Six class teachers for 2017 are as follows:

6 Yellow - Mr. Chris Giosis
6 Blue - Miss. Carly Barca
6 Green - Miss. Lauren Drill and Jo Bennett
6 Red – Miss. Anna Mautone

We are sure that it will be a fantastic year for us all, beginning nice an early with our Camp to Canberra on the 6th March, 2017. Over the next few weeks, there will be various information sent home. We thank you in advance for the prompt returning of the paper work.

We have four new additions to the Year 6 team this year. We welcome to St Simon’s Miss Anna Mautone and Miss Carly Barca, they have already made a wonderful impact on staff, students and the St Simon’s community. Miss Lauren Drill has moved up in the school and we welcome Jo Bennett who will take 6 Green on Fridays. Mr Giosis again will teach 6 Yellow. Together we are excited for the year ahead.

Parent/Teacher Chats are being held on the Monday 13th and Thursday 16th February. This is an opportunity for you to inform your child’s classroom teacher about your child’s strengths and challenges and any other important information. Please refer to this week’s edition of Contact for booking information.

Yesterday we sent home important information regarding Grade 6 Camp. These forms need to be signed by parents and returned to school, as soon as possible. Please read through this information with your child and if you have any concerns these can be discussed during parent/teacher chats next week. More information in regards to camp will be sent out over the next few weeks. **Reminder:** If you haven’t already, could you please return the Cybersafety User Agreement form that was sent home during the first week of school.

If your child is absent from school, his/her classroom teacher requires a written note explaining the reason for the absence. These notes are required by the government and are stored as legal documents. Using the St. Simon’s School Smart Phone App to notify of absences is an acceptable method of informing the school of any absences.
If your child’s medical information has recently changed, it is imperative that the school office is contacted so relevant areas of the school can be properly informed. Please take some time during the upcoming Parent/Teacher interviews to review this information.

This term we have a School Closure Day on Tuesday, March 14th. Note this is the Tuesday after Labour Day.

Nude Food Thursdays is a new initiative at St Simon’s. As a school we are aiming to reduce our waste impact on the environment. It is encouraged that every Thursday the students must bring a rubbish free lunch. This means no disposable wrappers or plastics. The students are asked to bring their lunches in containers they can take home, wash and reuse. This includes sandwiches, yoghurts, brain food (putting it in a container), chips, biscuits etc. We encourage students to include nude food every day of the week, but Thursday is a requirement. We appreciate your understanding and support.

Religious Education:

This year the majority of the Year Six students will be making their Confirmation in August. In preparation for this, some of the students will be making the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this term. At the end of Term One the Church celebrates a special period in the Catholic Calendar, Lent. This will be the main focus of the Religious Education during Term One. When the students return to school in Term two we celebrate Alleluia Day, when Jesus has risen. The units are outlined below:

Teach us to Pray -
In Teach Us to Pray, students explore the many forms of prayer within the Christian tradition. They shall encounter experiences such as meditation, contemplation and vocal prayer, and shall analyse the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew’s Gospel. At the conclusion of the unit students are invited to name what significance prayer has in their own lives, and to prepare prayer and rituals based on their new learning.

Lent to Easter we are Transformed –
In this unit students explore ways in which Lent offers opportunities for growth and transformation. Through the exploration of the parable of the Prodigal Son and personal, stories of people in the community, students learn that, through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, God offers hope to all Christians. Healing, reconciliation and transformation are experienced in the forgiving love of the Father and through the willingness to forgive and to rebuild relationships with others. The students use journals to reflect on any personal growth and change they undergo during the Lenten season.

Literacy

All students will participate in a variety of literature activities using appropriate texts and focusing on specific skills. We will investigate the use of evidence drawn from the text to support interpretations, look at strategies for working out the meaning of different words, and make links to prior knowledge: text to text, text to self, text to the world.

In Term One, one of the main foci in writing will be Recounts using our Canberra trip as a stimulus. There will also be a large focus on planning and editing of work. There will be a spelling test each week, studied for homework. For public speaking the children will be practising related skills to be able to communicate effectively and confidently, culminating in the presentation of leadership podcast.

The School will be providing the Literacy Pro service to all children in Year Six. This will test the comprehension levels of all the students while suggesting appropriate reading material the students can chose from.
**Mathematics**

During Term One, the children will be completing a series of tests to inform future teaching for each student. At the start of term there is an emphasis on the collection and representation of data. After camp the students will focus on place value and being able to successfully use the four processes.

Each student needs to be proficient in various multiples. These basic operations are necessary tools successfully learning about place value and number this term.

We would also like to remind you that students have access to Mathletics. It will be used as a teaching tool in class and the students will have access at home and from time to time might have specific homework tasks. Mathletics assist students in engaging with interactive mathematical activities to reinforce what they are learning at school.

Each student will need to have his/her math toolkit fully stocked at school, and will be required to use if for homework tasks. Each toolkit should have a mathematics dictionary, calculator, ruler, playing cards and maths set including a compass and protractor. The school will be providing the students with dice.

**Integrated Topic**

Our Integrated topic for this term will have two parts. The first part will be in preparation for our Canberra trip. There will be a focus on our Australian history, politics and leadership. The unit will culminate in each student making a Podcast as to why they would make a great Prime Minister.

Our second part of the unit will enable each of the students to share their experiences of Canberra through a multiple Intelligences project, allowing each student to choose a topic based on their academic strengths.

**Specialist Timetable**

Japanese will be held on Wednesday mornings for 6 Blue, 6 Green and 6 Red with 6 yellow participating in Japanese Wednesday afternoons.

This term classroom teachers will teach the following subjects on the days below,

- Monday - 6 Yellow (Art)
- Tuesday - 6 Blue (Music)
- Thursday - 6 Green (Library)
- Friday - 6 Red (PE)

This term, other specialists for Year 6 classes are held on Tuesdays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>6 Blue</th>
<th>6 Green</th>
<th>6 Red</th>
<th>6 Yellow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.15 - 11.55</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>PE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.55 – 12.35</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.35 – 1.15</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Uniform**

It is Term One, which means the school’s policy, “NO HAT NO PLAY” applies. It is essential we teach our children from this early age to protect themselves from the harmful rays of the sun. Only school hats are to be worn and any child without a hat will be asked to sit in the shaded area outside Building D for the duration of playtimes.

All children must be in full summer uniform. Sport uniform should only be worn on P.E days and if they have Sport. If your child is out of uniform, please ensure that a note is sent to their classroom teacher explaining the reason. If your child chooses to wear black runners as part of the uniform, these runners need to be completely black with no other colours showing.

**Homework**

In preparation for secondary school, to learn successful study habits and develop organisation skills, it is imperative homework is completed weekly. Therefore it shall be sent home on Friday to be handed in the following Friday. This allows students with extra curricula activities to plan their week. As part of the homework requirement, students need to be read a minimum of 20 minutes per night. Homework will cover most areas of the curriculum with Mathematics largely including open ended questions. Book responses need to be completed at the end of the week in the homework book. Please see your classroom teacher with any questions.

**Inter-School Sport**

Throughout the year, the Year Six students will have a number of opportunities to represent the school in a variety of sports. There will be a chance for every student to be involved in a team environment and gain a vast variety of skills that are not necessarily available in the classroom. We know that the students will represent their school to the best of their abilities.

We will also require parental assistance during these times. Whether it is as a head coach, assistant coach or another type of team support staff, we may require a helping hand from time to time. If you have any expertise in a particular sport and are willing to lend a hand, please feel free to contact your child’s classroom teacher who can then get in contact with the most suitable staff member.

**Calendar**

The calendar attached has all dates required for Term One. Many of these dates are replicated on the school App, which conveniently has an easy to use facility to notify the school of student absences.
TERM 1 CALENDAR 2017

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 8th
No school for Preps

Wednesday 8th
Reconciliation Session (1) 2.00pm or 7.30pm

Wednesday 8th
Parents’ Association Meeting 7.00pm

Friday 10th
Opening School Mass 11.30am (6Y)

Friday 10th
Level Term letters sent home

Monday 13th
Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30pm to 8.00pm

Tuesday 14th
School Advisory Board Meeting 7pm

Wednesday 15th
Reconciliation Session (2) 2.00pm or 7.30pm

Wednesday 15th
No school for Preps

Thursday 16th
Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30pm to 8.00pm

Friday 17th
Closing date for applications to Yr 7, 2018 for Catholic Sec. Schools

Friday 17th
Parents’ Association Movie Night 7.00pm

Monday 20th
Harmony Day Liturgy 2.30pm

Tuesday 21st
Prep Prayer Night 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Wednesday 22nd
No school for Preps

Wednesday 22nd
Reconciliation Session (3) 2.00pm or 7.30pm

Wednesday 22nd
Parents’ Association AGM 7.30pm

Thursday 23rd
District Swimming

Friday 24th
Stand Up Day

Friday 26th
Ron Barassi’s Birthday

Tuesday 28th
Shrove Tuesday

MARCH

Wednesday 1st
Ash Wednesday Mass 11.30am

Wednesday 1st
Reconciliation Session (4) 2.00pm or 7.30pm

Friday 3rd
World Day of Prayer

Friday 3rd
National Ride2School Day

Friday 3rd
Anointing Mass 9.15am

Friday 3rd
Schools Clean Up Day

Saturday 4th
Working Bee 9am – 12pm

Sunday 5th
1st Sunday Lent

Mon 6 – Fri 10
Year 6 Camp to Canberra

Monday 6th
Assembly/Liturgy 2.30pm

Wednesday 8th
Parents’ Association Meeting 7pm

Wednesday 8th
Reconciliation Session (5) 2.00pm or 7.30pm

Sunday 12th
Second Sunday of Lent

Monday 13th
Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 14th
Professional Development Day – No school for students

Wednesday 15th
2nd Rite of Reconciliation (1)

Thursday 16th
Year 1 Camp Day

Thursday 16th
2nd Rite of Reconciliation (2)

Friday 17th
St. Patrick's Feast Day

Friday 17th
Regional Swimming

Sunday 19th
Third Sunday Lent

Tuesday 21st
Harmony Day

Wednesday 22nd
School Photos – All day

Wednesday 22nd
School Advisory Board Meeting 7pm

Wednesday 22nd
Mass 9.15am Archbishop Hart attending with Grades 5 & 6

Thursday 23rd
AFL Season commences with Carl vs Rich

Saturday 25th
Feast of the Annunciation

Sunday 26th
Fourth Sunday Lent

Monday 27th
Halogen Young Leaders Day

Tuesday 28th
School Passion/ Palm Sunday Liturgy 2.30pm
Thursday 30th  School Holy Thursday Liturgy 2.30pm
Thursday 30th  Prep Sports Night 6pm
Friday 31st  School Good Friday Liturgy 11.30am
Friday 31st  End Term 1 Dismissal 1.15pm

APRIL

Sunday 1st  Daylight Savings ends
Sunday 2nd  Fifth Sunday Lent
Thursday 6th  Parish 2nd Rite of Reconciliation
Friday 7th  Anointing Mass
Sunday 9th  Passion/ Palm Sunday
Thursday 13th  Holy Thursday
Friday 14th  Good Friday
Saturday 15th  Holy Saturday
Sunday 16th  Easter Sunday
Monday 17th  Easter Monday
Tuesday 18th  Term 2 commences
Tuesday 18th  Anaphor/ Lenten Liturgy 11.30am
Monday 24th  ANZAC Day Liturgy 2.30pm
Tuesday 25th  ANZAC Day holiday
Wed. 26th – Fri. 28th  Year 5 Camp

Please note any changes to the calendar dates will be printed in Contact
Finally, thank you to everyone for your support. We look forward to an extremely busy and enjoyable year ahead, working together.

**Teachers Emails**
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Chris Giosis  
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Anna Mautone  
amautone@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au
Lauren Drill  
ldrill@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au

Sincerely,
Grade 6 Teachers

Carly Barca  
(6 Blue)
Chris Giosis  
(6 Yellow)
Anna Mautone  
(6 Red)
Lauren Drill  
(6 Green)